



PLEASE POST

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY SADDENED BY AIR INDIA DISASTER

Montreal, June 26, 1985 -- Concordia University mourns the loss of several members the University community, and their families who tragically lost their lives in Air India Flight 182 which crashed early Sunday, June 23, off the coast of Ireland.

Listed below are the names of the faculty, students and family members who were aboard the Air India flight.

Dr. Balvir Singh, (46 years-old), was a Professor of Economics and a respected leader in his field. Professor Singh did his post-doctoral work at the University of Toronto, and taught at York University and the Delhi School of Economics. He returned to Canada in 1982 as a visiting professor at Concordia and was offered a full professorship almost immediately. Dr. Singh was accompanied on the tragic flight by his wife Ranjna, their two daughters and a son.

Dr. Gyan Chandra Upreti, (44 years-old), came to Concordia one year ago on sabbatical leave replacement as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Physics. Professor Upreti taught physics at the Indian Institute of Technology in Kanpur, India. He was internationally known for his expertise in Electron Paramagnetic Resonance, and was a distinguished professor and researcher. Dr. Upreti was returning to India with his wife, Hema, and their son.

Dr. Nish Mukerji, (51 years-old), was returning for a two-month visit with his wife Shefali. Dr. Mukerji, an outstanding student, had just received his doctorate of philosophy in Physics at Concordia Spring Convocation ceremonies. He also taught science at Loyola High School and was highly respected by his students and colleagues. Dr. Mukerji distinguished himself by winning several medals and by becoming the first evening student in Loyola's science division to graduate summa cum laude in 1973.

Mr. Sukavanam Venkatesan, (32 years-old), had recently graduated with a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering. He was considered an outstanding student by all who knew him. Mr. Venkatesan came to Concordia in 1983 on an Indian Commonwealth Scholarship. He was travelling with his wife Geetha.

Mr. Brij Srivastava, (40 years-old), was enrolled in the doctorate program in Building Engineering at the University's Centre for Building Studies. Before coming to Concordia, Mr. Srivastava obtained his Master's degree of Science at the University of Alberta. He was working as a Civil Engineer for the Group SNC, a Montreal Engineering Firm.

Also on the Air India Flight were the wife, two children and mother-in-law of Mr. Mahesh Sharma, a lecturer in the Department of Quantitative Methods who has recently been awarded the John W. O'Brien 10th Anniversary Distinguished Teaching Award for his outstanding work.

Mr. Michael Chatlani, a 19 year-old engineering student, lost his mother, sister and brother who were travelling to India on a two-month holiday.

Concordia has a long and close association with the Indian community of Montreal. The University is deeply saddened by these tragic deaths and extends its condolences to the bereaved families, their relatives and the Indian community. A collective memorial will be held on Friday, June 28, at noon, in the Henry F. Hall Building, at 1455 de Maisonneuve Boulevard West.